

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 17, 2009

The Honorable Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to express my support of the following individuals for appointment to positions at the Department of Agriculture.

USDA Rural Development State Director

William Hobbs worked for twenty years for the USDA Farmers Home Administration. He is now with the USDA Rural Development State Office, serving as the Director of Multi Family Housing Programs, managing a portfolio that is the second largest in the country. He has a long history of mitigating problems between owners of multifamily properties and agency staff.

Randall Gore has been working in rural development in NC for twenty-four years. He is currently serving as an Area Director for USDA Rural Development, administering and overseeing a variety of programs over a fourteen county region. Gore previously worked for the USDA Farmers Home Administration. He has also managed a family farm since 1981.

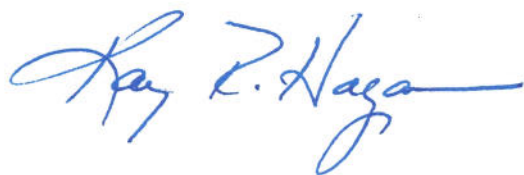
USDA Farm Services Agency State Director

Philip Farland is currently a Marketing and Outreach Specialist with the NC Department of Agriculture, where he draws on his many years of service to the agriculture sector on the local and state level. In 1998, Farland was appointed State Director of the Farm Services Agency, helping to provide assistance to farmers on 56,000 farms in the state.

Walter Smith has served as a County Executive Director for the USDA Farm Services Agency since 1979. Smith has thirty years of experience working with farmers and associations to address their needs and support beneficial programs. Prior to his work with the Farm Services Agency, he taught Vocational Agriculture in the Martin County School District.

I am confident that these individuals would bring the same passion and commitment to these positions as they have brought to their many years of public service in my home state of North Carolina. I urge you to give them every favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Kay R. Hagan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Kay R. Hagan
U.S. Senator

KRH/ch